

Executive Registry  
3480  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

4 August 1986

Executive Secretariat

NOTE FOR: DDI  
DDO

RE: Philippines

On 31 July, Secretary Shultz

indicated he would like to meet with Bob and Mike Armacost (and others it wanted) to discuss the Philippines. [redacted] called Shultz's office to acknowledge receipt (as Bob had left on leave) and to see when the Secretary wanted to get together. Given that Shultz would go on leave for three weeks just as Bob returns, it is likely the meeting will not occur before 8 September.

Knowing such a meeting is likely, however, and given Aquino's scheduled September visit, I thought you would like a heads up.

Attachment: As stated



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THE SECRETARY *ka/bu*

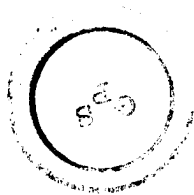
Bob Gates,

FYI

I would like a discussion  
(lunch?) with you and Mike  
(others if wanted) on the  
Philippines.

GPS

7/31



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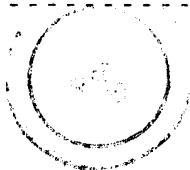
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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, RP  
SUBJECT: JULY 29 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AQUINO

REF: STATE 234685

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. I MET WITH PRESIDENT AQUINO ON JULY 29 AND FOUND HER ANXIOUS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE POSITIVE MOOD IN THE U.S. TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES DURING HER UPCOMING VISIT, AND WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN CURRENT U.S. PERSPECTIVES OF HER GOVERNMENT. SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CONCOM WOULD COMPLETE ITS WORK PRIOR TO HER U.S. VISIT AND WOULD CONFINE ITS DELIBERATIONS TO PROPER CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS I.E. NOT THE BASES. REGARDING HER RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY, THE PRESIDENT COMMENDED ENRILE FOR HIS HANDLING OF THE MANILA HOTEL INCIDENT. SHE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HER GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CHIDED FOR BEING SOFT ON TOLENTINO AND HIS FOLLOWERS. SHE BELIEVES THAT RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY ARE O.K., THOUGH MUCH MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE. SHE SAID THAT COMMUNICATION WITH ENRILE IS IMPROVING. SHE IS CULTIVATING THE GENERALS AND ENCOURAGING HER CIVILIAN

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CABINET MEMBERS TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY. THE CURRENT PROBLEMS FACING THE NEW GOVERNMENT REMAIN ENORMOUS, BUT MEASURABLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON THE MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS, AND PRESIDENT AQUINO'S LEADERSHIP ABILITY IS GROWING STEADILY. END SUMMARY.

3. I MET WITH PRESIDENT AQUINO FOR 40 MINUTES ON JULY 29. SHE WAS IN A CHATTY AND RELAXED MOOD. DESPITE AN OBVIOUSLY BUSY SCHEDULE AND A LONG LINE OF CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHERS WAITING TO SEE HER. WE TALKED ABOUT MY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND SIMILAR SUBJECTS. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HER EFFORTS TO COPE WITH THE PRESSURES OF HER JOB AND HER DESIRE TO RESERVE MORE PRIVATE TIME -- "AWAY FROM ALL THE JOB SEEKERS AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WHISPER SOMETHING IN MY EAR."

4. MRS. AQUINO WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN MY OBSERVATIONS ON PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN THE U.S. TOWARD HER AND HER GOVERNMENT. I SAID I BELIEVED THAT WITH CAREFUL PLANNING AND PREPARATION, HER SEPTEMBER VISIT SHOULD BE A GREAT SUCCESS. SHE SAID THAT HER DESIRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS POSITIVE MOOD IN THE U.S. BEFORE IT MIGHT FADE WAS THE MAIN REASON SHE HAD REJECTED THE ADVISE OF HER CABINET AND OTHERS TO POSTPONE A U.S. TRIP UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

5. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT HER JUDGEMENT WAS CORRECT. I SAID I HAD THE SENSE THAT MOST OBSERVERS IN THE U.S. ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE INITIATIVES SHE HAS LAUNCHED TO REESTABLISH FULLY FUNCTIONING DEMOCRATIC SENSITIVITIES AND BRING ABOUT ECONOMIC

RECOVERY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SAID I THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT SHE HAVE IN HAND A DRAFT OF THE NEW

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CONSTITUTION AND AN IMF AGREEMENT BY THE TIME SHE  
ARRIVES IN THE U.S.

6. IN RESPONSE, MRS. AQUINO SAID THAT JUSTICE MUNOZ PALMA AND OTHERS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION HAVE ASSURED HER THEY SHOULD FINISH THEIR WORK PRETTY MUCH ON SCHEDULE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. I ASKED WHETHER SHE IS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NOT LEGISLATE AWAY HER OPTIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES.

(NOTE: I DID NOT MENTION THE BASES PER SE, BUT SHE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE REFERENCE.) THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT SHE IS CONFIDENT ON THIS POINT. SHE SAID SHE HAS REFRAINED FROM TALKING DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSIONERS ON THESE SUBJECTS, BUT SHE IS KEEPING CLOSE TABS ON THEIR WORK. SHE SAID SHE IS CONFIDENT THAT IN THE END, THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WILL COMPLY WITH THE GUIDELINES SHE SET FORTH IN HER ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION WHEN SHE URGED THAT THE COMMISSION CONFINE ITSELF TO THE CREATION OF INSTITUTIONS AND NOT TRY TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF NATIONAL POLICY.

7. AT THIS POINT, I ASKED WHETHER SHE IS COMFORTABLE WITH HER RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY. THIS LED FIRST TO A DISCUSSION OF THE MANILA HOTEL INCIDENT. THE PRESIDENT SAID SHE HAD NOT BEEN TERRIBLY WORRIED BY THE AFFAIR, PERHAPS BECAUSE GENERAL RAMOS WAS WITH HER IN MINDANAO AND HE WAS ABLE TO REASSURE HER QUICKLY THAT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITHIN THE NAFF. I SAID I THOUGHT DEFENSE MINISTER ENRILE'S RESPONSE TO THE AFFAIR HAD ALSO BEEN GOOD. SHE AGREED.

8. MRS. AQUINO WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHE REALIZES SHE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR BEING TOO SOFT ON TOLENTINO AND THE OTHER LOYALISTS. BUT HER FIRST CONCERN WAS

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TO AVOID BLOODSHED. ALSO, SHE HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN  
INCLINED TO REACT WITH TOLERANCE AND RESTRAINT TO THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE LOYALISTS. HOWEVER, WITH THE  
BRUTAL KILLING OF A YOUNG GOVERNMENT SUPPORTER BY  
LOYALIST GOONS THIS PAST SUNDAY, THINGS HAVE NOW GONE  
TOO FAR. SHE INDICATED THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS A  
DECISIVE FACTOR IN HER DECISION OF THE PRECEDING DAY  
TO CHARGE TOLENTINO AND SEVERAL OF HIS SUPPORTERS  
WITH REBELLION.

9. SHE NOTED WRYLY THAT THE DECISION TO PROSECUTE  
TOLENTINO UNDER THE LAW HAS REVEALED ANOTHER FACET OF  
THE MARCOS LEGACY. PEOPLE ARE NOW ASKING WHY THESE  
LOYALISTS ARE NOT IN JAIL. SHE HAS HAD TO EXPLAIN  
THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE MARCOS ERA, DUE PROCESS MUST  
BE OBSERVED.

10. AT THIS POINT, I BROUGHT HER BACK TO THE  
QUESTION OF HER RELATIONS WITH ENRILE AND THE  
MILITARY. SHE SAID THAT SHE THINKS THINGS ARE  
IMPROVING ON BOTH SIDES. FRANKLY, WHEN SHE HAD FIRST  
ASSUMED POWER HER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MILITARY WAS  
HEAVILY COLORED BY HER EXPERIENCES DURING MARTIAL  
LAW MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN HER HUSBAND'S MURDER,  
ETC. AT THE SAME TIME, MANY IN THE MILITARY WERE  
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT HER.

11. FROM THE BEGINNING SHE HAS HAD A GOOD  
RELATIONSHIP WITH RAMOS. SHE TRUSTS HIM. SHE HAS  
MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CULTIVATE THE OTHER GENERALS.  
GIVING SMALL DINNERS FOR THEM AND THEIR WIVES AND

TRYING TO SHOW THAT HER FIRST OBJECTIVE IS NATIONAL  
UNITY AND THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY. SHE SAID SHE  
THINKS THIS IS PAYING DIVIDENDS, SLOWLY BUT SURELY.  
LITTLE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT IN THE PHILIPPINES. FOR  
EXAMPLE, THE WIVES OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS HAVE

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INVITED HER TO TEA.

12. MRS. AQUINO WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHE BELIEVES SHE NOW HAS QUITE GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH ENRILE. SHE HAD HEARD THAT HE WAS UPSET BECAUSE RAMOS HAD ACCOMPANIED HER ON HER TRIPS TO THE PROVINCES AND HE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO GO ALONG. SHE HAD CALLED HIM AND EXPLAINED THAT IT IS NOT HER NATURE TO ASK PEOPLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS. SHE HAD NOT ASKED RAMOS TO BE PRESENT; HE HAD SIMPLY SHOWED UP. SHE SAID ENRILE REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY BECAUSE IT WAS NOT HIS NATURE TO ASK TO TAG ALONG ON SUCH TRIPS. MRS. AQUINO SAID SHE HAS TOLD ENRILE THAT SHE REALIZES THE GREAT DEBT SHE OWES HIM AND EDDIE RAMOS AND THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS ACTION SHE AND DOY LAUREL WOULD STILL BE TRYING TO ORGANIZE ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS.

13. I TOLD HER THAT WHAT SHE HAD SAID WAS ENCOURAGING. I STATED THAT I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT PERHAPS SOME OF THE CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF HER GOVERNMENT NEED TO WORK HARDER TOWARD A LESSENING OF SUSPICION AND TENSION WITH THE MILITARY. MRS. AQUINO SMILED AND SAID SHE AGREED. SHE SAID SHE IS WORKING ON BOTH SIDES, TELLING HER CIVILIAN COLLEAGUES THEY HAVE TO START GETTING ALONG BETTER WITH THE MILITARY.

14. COMMENT: I WILL BE SEEING MINISTER ENRILE AND OTHER KEY FIGURES OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL THEN ADDRESS DIRECTLY THE POINTS RAISED IN REFTEL. FOR THE TIME BEING, I WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE

PROBLEMS MRS. AQUINO FACES REMAIN ENORMOUS, BUT I BELIEVE SHE IS GROWING STEADILY IN LEADERSHIP ABILITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT, WHILE HER GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, IT IS MAKING MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON THE MAJOR ITEMS ON ITS

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